

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES PETERSEN, Tuck, Gruenberg

Introduced: 2/13/12

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, and**
2 **the United States Congress to recognize the vital importance that Joint Base Elmendorf-**
3 **Richardson plays in national security, to protect the military bases located in the state,**
4 **and to maintain base operations in the state at current levels.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is an important military installation on
7 the front line of our nation's defense; and

8 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is an important part of the Anchorage
9 community, hosting approximately 13,000 Arctic warriors, approximately 20,000 family
10 members, and more than 3,000 civilian employees; and

11 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson covers 84,530 acres; and

12 **WHEREAS** members of the United States Army stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-
13 Richardson are at the forefront of protecting the nation's interest in the volatile regions of the
14 Asian Pacific and provide ready and relevant forces to overseas contingency operations; and

15 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, as the largest military installation in

1 the state, is home to the Alaskan Command, the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense
2 Command (NORAD) Region, the 11th Air Force Third Wing, the United States Army Alaska
3 headquarters, the Fourth Brigade Combat Team's 25th Infantry Division, the Third Maneuver
4 Enhancement Brigade, the 477th Fighter Group, the Alaska Army National Guard, the Alaska
5 Air National Guard, and more than 60 other organizations; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska NORAD Region safeguards the air sovereignty of North
7 America, responds to all air sovereignty threats, trains to meet all response options on a no-
8 notice basis, maintains infrastructure to support the air defense mission, and integrates space
9 and new technologies to support those missions; and

10 **WHEREAS** the 11th Air Force provides mission-ready and deployable forces,
11 provides secure and efficient air base operations, improves the premier joint training
12 environment of the state, and modernizes Air Force facilities and support; and

13 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is home to the Alaskan Command, an
14 organization that integrates military activities in the state, maximizes readiness, and supports
15 worldwide contingency force deployments; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Joint Task Force Alaska, an organization that deters, prevents, and
17 defeats terrorist threats within the Alaska Joint Operations Area and that executes Defense
18 Support of Civil Authorities is located at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; and

19 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Defense, on commencing the Base
20 Realignment and Closure process, will consider the relative value of maintaining domestic
21 military bases that provide international accessibility and highly valuable geographically
22 diverse training areas for all branches of the military;

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the
24 United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, and the United States Congress to
25 recognize the vital importance that Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson plays in our national
26 security, to protect the military bases located in the state, and to maintain base operations in
27 the state at current levels.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
29 the United States; the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, United States Secretary of Defense; and the
30 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
31 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.